

## Missing Link is completed



Council's \$14.3 million Budget of major new works and services continues to improve access and facilities throughout the City.

While the Plenty River Trail has been connected to the Main Yarra Trail for a number of years, there has been a lack of continuity between its junction with the Main Yarra Trail at Viewbank and the Trail's northern extremities in Greensborough, due to a gap between Martin's Lane and Lower Plenty Road.

Council recently linked the missing section with a \$281,000 bridge (above) to span the Plenty River between Martin's Lane in Viewbank and the Heidelberg Golf Club in Lower Plenty.

Work started late in 2006 and work on the path to link the new bridge with the Old Lower Plenty Road Bridge began in January. The new section of trail, including the bridge, is now open to the public.

In other works the \$230,000 coloured concrete shared trail connecting the old lower Plenty Road Bridge and the new Plenty River Footbridge is now under construction (above right), as is the \$359,000 redevelopment of the Macleod Park Pavilion. (right)



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The Banner is a monthly publication produced by Banyule City Council.

**Editorial deadlines:** Send editorial for the May Banner to the postal address below by Monday April 2. For May and June community events listings please pick up a form at any Council Service Centre, go to [www.banyule.vic.gov.au](http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au) or email [eventslisting@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:eventslisting@banyule.vic.gov.au) by Monday April 2.

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL

**For all enquiries please call**  
**9490 4222**

**TTY: 9432 7211**

**New Fax Number: 9499 9475**

**Email:** [enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au)

**Website:** [www.banyule.vic.gov.au](http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au)

**All correspondence to:**

PO Box 51, Ivanhoe, 3079

DX 97904 Ivanhoe

Council has three Service Centres at the following locations:

**Ivanhoe** 275 Upper Heidelberg Road

**Rosanna** 44 Turnham Avenue

**Greensborough** 9 – 13 Flintoff Street

**Office Hours**

All Offices are open:

Monday to Friday 8.30am – 5pm

Rosanna – Wednesday night until 7pm

Greensborough – Saturday 9am – 12noon



**Banyule**  
CITY COUNCIL



# Fight influenza

Influenza is more than just a bad cold. It is a respiratory disease caused by the influenza virus. The symptoms include fever, chills, weakness, sore throat, dry cough, loss of appetite, head and other aches, and burning eyes.

Influenza infections occur every year in our community, mainly in a 6 to 8 week period in the winter and spring. It is caused by a highly contagious virus, which is spread by coughs and sneezes. The person you can catch it from may be well at the time and pass it on to others before realising they are unwell.

The flu injection helps protect against the current main strains of flu and helps to prevent the serious complications that the influenza virus can cause. The influenza vaccine needs to be repeated each year as the virus has the ability to change. Each year the vaccine is formulated to combat the three influenza virus strains that are expected to be a problem in that particular year.

The injection is free to everyone aged 65 years and older; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15-49 with a health risk, and Aboriginal Torres Strait Islanders aged 50 and over. Council provides the vaccine to other residents for \$20 per dose.

It is highly recommended for people with chronic heart disorders, diabetes and kidney disorders, asthma and chronic respiratory disorders. Those with suppressed immune systems due to illness or treatment, those living in a nursing home or hostel and health care workers are also advised to be immunised.

It is also recommended for children on aspirin therapy, pregnant women, workers, travellers, and anyone who wants to reduce the risk of becoming ill with influenza. This vaccine is available at a reduced rate to Health Card holders, but only through local doctors.

Call Council's Health Services on 9490 4222 for immunisation session details or visit Council's website at [www.banyule.vic.gov.au](http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au).

## Volunteers of Banyule

Statewide an average of 40 per cent of residents do volunteer work, but how do you join them? Visit the Volunteers of Banyule – the volunteer resource centre funded by Council.

The volunteer support centre puts Banyule residents in touch with organisations in the area that need volunteers. Whether you want to help protect our environment, gain employment skills or cheer up someone's life through your friendship, Volunteers of Banyule can point you in the right direction.

Call Volunteers of Banyule on 9432 6466, drop in to 68 Macorna St Watsonia North 10am to 2pm weekdays or email [volunteersofbanyule@netspace.net.au](mailto:volunteersofbanyule@netspace.net.au)



# All WHELL in Heidelberg

WHELL is the West Heidelberg Everyday Living and Learning Project.

It is a partnership between Council, Philip's Gate, Olympic Village Primary School, Audrey Brooks and Olympic Village Pre-Schools, Banyule Maternal and Child Health Centres, Alys Key (Child Protection Society), Yarra Plenty Regional Library and Banyule Community Health Centre.

These playgroups are a catalyst for parents, children and the wider local members of the community to further develop skills and links to a wide range of community agencies and organisations.

There is a major emphasis on language and literacy for all participants as well as training and employment pathways, leadership and mentoring opportunities for parents and guardians.

The target group includes young parents, single parents/guardians and families from a CALD (Cultural and Linguistically Diverse) background.

Everyone is welcome to attend any of the playgroup sessions being offered.

These are just some of the ways that our playgroup helps to deliver experiences and opportunities.

- Guest speakers, and excursions
- Books, art, photographs, craft, play dough
- Construction equipment, natural materials
- Indoor and outdoor play spaces including water play
- Drama, dress-ups, songs, music.

Playgroups now operate on Monday and Wednesday mornings between 9am and 11am at the Olympic Village Primary School.

For more information call Fiona on 9499 8332.



## Council meeting dates 2007

Council meetings begin at 7.45pm and are open to the public. They are preceded by an open forum at 7.30pm during which questions or brief comments from the public are invited.

If you wish to speak to an item on the agenda please complete a Request to Speak form available from Service Centres or the website at [www.banyule.vic.gov.au](http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au).

**Agendas** for Ordinary Council Meetings are available for viewing from midday on the Friday before the meeting from the Ivanhoe, Rosanna and Greensborough Service Centres and Ivanhoe and Rosanna libraries.

Copies are also available for perusal from the Diamond Valley, Eltham and Watsonia libraries as well as the bookmobile, or you can view the agenda on Council's website at [www.banyule.vic.gov.au](http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au).

### VENUE:

At its Ordinary Council Meeting of September 18, 2006 Council resolved to hold all Council Meetings in the Council Chambers at the Ivanhoe Service Centre, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road.

### BANYULE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

<b>APRIL</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>MAY</b>	<b>7</b>	
<b>MAY</b>	<b>21</b>	
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>25</b>	
<b>JULY</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>JULY</b>	<b>23</b>	
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>17</b>	
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>26</b>	Mayoral election then Ordinary Meeting
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>10</b>	

# New Banyule Building Code

Council has prepared a draft *Builder's Code of Practice* to encourage responsible building and construction and to minimise negative impacts on the environment and the community.

The Code protects our amenities including stormwater drains, footpaths, nature strips and kerb and channel. It also provides greater direction and guidance to the building and construction industry when carrying out works in Banyule.

Under the Code, builders and developers must maintain their sites and immediate surrounds in a suitable condition, apply for and obtain the appropriate permits, and put in place appropriate controls to protect the environment.

The Code applies to all parties involved in building work, including owners, builders, contractors, building surveyors, and developers.

The Code helps to:

- Promote building practice that reduces damage to Council's property and our environment;
- Encourages owners, builders, contractors and suppliers to act responsibly when conducting building work or making deliveries to building sites;
- Encourages protection of the environment by reducing pollution and preventing chemicals or sediment from washing into stormwater drains and entering waterways.

- Ensures the safety of people around building sites;
- Prevents litter from escaping from building sites onto our streets and into our waterways.

The Code, together with the Council's Local Law, places fair and reasonable controls on the building industry and ensures that builders pay the cost of damage.

All builders and developers operating in Banyule must comply with the Code of Practice and Council's Local Law. Council will work with builders to achieve this by providing free on-site advice at the start of a project and Council officers will advise on the Code's requirements.

Council is seeking comment from interested parties on the contents of the draft *Code of Practice*. The Code may be accessed from Council's website at [www.banyule.vic.gov.au](http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au) or copies can be inspected at any Council Service Centre.



## Pet registration is due on April 10

Banyule residents are reminded that if they own dogs or cats that are over three months old they must be registered with Council.

If you already have an animal registered you will be sent a registration renewal notice, as all registrations are due by April 10 each year.

Please check that all the details on your account are correct. If any changes need to be made please mark them

on your form and return it to Council when making payment.

Council provides a substantial reduction of the fee for desexed and microchipped animals. If you have recently acquired a new dog or cat, Council offers the remainder of the current year's registration free (until April 10) if your animal is microchipped. Proof of microchipping is required.

Pets that have been previously registered or registered with another Council are not eligible for free registration.

Registration forms are available from Council Service Centres or can be downloaded from Council's website at [www.banyule.vic.gov.au](http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au).

If your dog or cat has lost its registration tag please contact Council on 9490 4222 and a replacement tag will be organised.



# Bakewell Ward Page

Welcome to another edition of your Council publication *The Banner*. This page is especially dedicated to Bakewell news and events.

You will see a new section to this page called "Did You Know?" Under this banner bona fide, not for profit, non-political, Bakewell-based community groups have an opportunity to promote their organisation in about 60 words. If your group would like to participate in this unique promotional opportunity give me a call to discuss how the "Did You Know?" section can help.

## ONE YEAR DOWN

My first year as your Council representative has come and gone. And what a year it has been.

It has been challenging to juggle family, business and Council responsibilities I have to admit, but I have enjoyed the last 12 months enormously and I am looking ahead to the rest of 2007 with great anticipation.

2006 saw the planning stages of the exciting Green Edge project in and around the Greensborough shopping precinct come to fruition. 2007 will see this project go those few steps closer to becoming the "Jewel in the North" and something this community will be proud of.

To the GPAC Community Consultative Committee thanks for your patience, persistence and guidance on this wonderful project and for allowing me to chair those meetings. Your efforts and diligence will be rewarded and the community will be the ultimate winner.

## SLOW DOWN

This council has worked hard over the last year to ensure we have the safest roads we can have in and around the City. Consultation with governing bodies like VicRoads is continuing to ensure that this policy is maintained. We also plan to raise road safety issues with local members of parliament in proposed get-togethers over the coming weeks.

One major concern is the potential hazard around school zones and routes to those zones. Some recent evidence gathered by engineering staff suggests that there is a

problem with drivers speeding during the dangerous hours 8am-9am and 3pm-4pm weekdays. This coincides with school pick-up and drop off times.

It may be worth a second glance at that "speedo" if you are a parent dropping off or picking up children.

If you're driving around at these times please think of our kids' safety. A tragedy can happen very quickly. And Victoria Police monitor these zones continually.

## DID YOU KNOW

The Diamond Valley Gem Club has updated its machinery – providing better equipment for its members. New members are always welcome – you will have access to various courses at low fees.

If you are interested ring Gunter on 9435 7906 for further information or to arrange a visit to the club's premises at the corner of Henry Street and Duncan Avenue in Greensborough.

## DRY TIMES

As "The Big Dry" bites Banyule even harder, with some sporting clubs' coming season likely to be affected, it really is a time to think about those who are truly facing hardship.

In rural Australia many farmers have lost crops, stock, their properties and in an increasingly worrying trend are even taking their own lives, such is the desperation.

If we miss a season of football, or soccer, is it that important in the whole scheme of things?

I guess it's a matter of perspective. The loss of a few footy games is a far flung concern compared to what some are facing in the next few months.

Our thoughts, hopes and prayers are with them.

**Cr Peter McKenna. Bakewell Ward**

**PO Box 201 Lower Plenty 3093**

**9434 2461 Fax: 9432 6264 0409 027 762**

**Email:**

**[peter.mckenna@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:peter.mckenna@banyule.vic.gov.au)**





# 70th birthday celebrations

Get ready to don your evening attire and shoes so you can kick up your heels for the 70th Anniversary of the Heidelberg Town Hall – now known as The Centre Ivanhoe.

Tickets are now on sale for the 70th Anniversary Heidelberg Town Hall Celebration Ball, to be held on Friday April 27 in The Great Hall at The Centre Ivanhoe.

Tickets are available at \$100 per head.

Fantastic food and wine with a great mix of dance music by Frankie J. Holden and Wilbur Wilde's "On The Prowl" will set the scene for a memorable night out.

A highlight of the evening will be a dance performance by Sebastian's Dance School and Banyule's Mayor Cr Wayne Phillips, who will entertain the audience with three swing/rock and roll dance numbers.

The night will also raise money with proceeds from a table raffle and live auction going to local charities including Diamond Valley Food Share, Banyule Emergency Housing and Volunteers of Banyule.

The Centre Ivanhoe is a local landmark that has been the centre for many community celebrations since its opening in 1937, and recognised widely for its outstanding Art Deco architecture.

Mayor Wayne Phillips said the Celebration Ball was a wonderful opportunity for Council and the community to commemorate the history of this heritage-listed Art Deco building. "This event will also enable us to acknowledge and thank local community leaders, volunteers and other public representatives who work closely with Council in the delivery of effective services," he said.

As part of the celebrations, The Centre Ivanhoe will be open to the general public on Sunday April 29.

Pre-booked tours of the complex, including a display commemorating the building's history, will be held between 10.30am and 4pm.

Council is now seeking photos or other material that relate to community attendance at events at the Heidelberg Town Hall over the years. It is especially interested in images or memorabilia of debutante balls, dances, birthdays and other functions from 1937 to 1970 for commemorative display at the Open Day.

For tickets to the Celebration Ball, tour bookings, or to share your memories of Heidelberg Town Hall please contact Council on 9490 4222.



## Planning for Winter in Banyule Fest

The Winter in Banyule annual arts festival will be launched on Saturday August 4 this year and will run for 17 days. The festival is driven by the diverse artistic community in Banyule, and features a broad range of art, music, dance, heritage and film events in locations all around the district.

Winter in Banyule aims to be a unique festival that celebrates the spirit and diverse cultures within the city.

It is committed to ongoing innovation in the arts and aims to play an integral role in the vibrancy and personality of Banyule.

This is an umbrella festival so local artists and organisations

wanting to stage their own events will be given publicity and promotional support as part of the festival.

There is also the opportunity to join other groups and businesses in Banyule to stage events, and in the coming months meetings will be arranged to facilitate that.

If you would like to be involved or want to stage an event as part of the festival get planning now! If you would like to be a part of the festival or just want more information check the Banyule web site at [www.banyule.vic.gov.au/culture](http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/culture), or contact Council's Cultural Development Officer Tony Smith on 9490 4222.

# The Big Dry continues

Bursts and leaks from water mains have increased due to the hot, dry conditions according to Yarra Valley Water:

As most of Melbourne's soil is clay-based, the dry summer conditions have resulted in the soil drying up and contracting, causing pipes to be pulled out of alignment, in a similar way that ground movement causes cracks in people's houses. The number of bursts and leaks jumped by 50% in the three months from November 2006 to January 2007.

Yarra Valley Water's expanded repair crews are working around-the-clock to help prevent large water loss and to minimise inconvenience to customers.

Homeowners can play a part in reducing the amount of water lost to leaks by identifying leaks on their own property, as repairing these are the property owner's responsibility.

Yarra Valley Water also relies on the public to keep it informed of sudden bursts and leaks in its service area.

Those reporting bursts and leaks should phone the new 13WATER hotline, or contact Yarra Valley Water on 131 721.

## **\$1000 RAINWATER TANK REBATES**

The Victorian Government has increased incentives under the Water Smart Gardens and Homes Rebate Scheme.

The scheme rewards residential customers connected to a mains water supply for purchasing water-saving devices and services, thereby reducing their water consumption.

Households buying and installing a water tank from January 1 2007 are now eligible for a rebate of up to \$1000.

Water tanks can save up to 40,000 litres per household per year. The rebate is based on the size of the tank and requires the tank to be connected to toilet and/or laundry facilities.

The existing \$150 rebate for tanks 600 litres or larger not connected for indoor use will still apply.

The rebates scheme is administered by the retail water authorities on behalf of the Government, in partnership with the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Banyule residents can claim the rebate by applying to their water supplier via an application form that can be sent out or downloaded from the Our Water Our Future website [www.ourwater.vic.gov.au](http://www.ourwater.vic.gov.au)



## **STAGE 3 WATER RESTRICTIONS**

Stage 3 Water Restrictions are still in place. This means that lawns cannot be watered at any time.

A manual dripper system can be used between 6am – 8am and 8pm – 10pm on home gardens on certain days\*.

An automatic dripper system can be used between midnight – 4am on certain days\*.

\*Even numbered houses can water on Saturday and Tuesday; odd numbered can water on Sunday and Wednesday.

Watering is not permitted on Monday, Thursday and Friday

Hand-held hoses fitted with a trigger nozzle can be used between 6am – 8am and 8pm -10pm to water gardens.

Hand-held hoses cannot be used for vehicle washing. A bucket filled from a tap can be used to clean windows, mirrors and lights; and spot-remove corrosive substances. A commercial car wash can be used.

Pool filling restrictions apply.

## **STAGE 4 WATER RESTRICTIONS**

Melbourne's water reserves are now hovering around 32%. If they fall below 29% Stage 4 restrictions are likely. At that stage all garden watering is banned. Only car mirrors, lights and windscreens can be cleaned for health and safety reasons – using a bucket of water – even at commercial car washes.



# Snapshots

## GREENSBOROUGH PROJECT CLOSER

Council's exciting plans for the redevelopment of Greensborough moved a step closer with the announcement of a GPAC (Greensborough Principal Activity Centre) Planning Panel hearing for Amendment C51 to the Banyule Planning Scheme. The Scheme changes are needed to allow the project to proceed. The hearing will be held on April 11, 12 & 13 in the Council Chambers at Council's Ivanhoe Office. The hearing is open to the public for observation of proceedings. The panel is expected to hand down its report in May. For more information call 9490 4222.

## HELP RECYCLE MORE PLASTIC TYPES

Don't forget you can now put a wider range of plastics in your commingled recycling bin (the one with the yellow lid). You can now place rigid plastic containers codes 4, 5, 6, and 7 in with the old 1, 2 and 3. Also remember not to place plastic bags in the recycle bin. By recycling the full range of plastics Banyule residents can help to achieve the Council and State Government target of diverting 65% of waste from landfill by 2014.

Since introducing its three bin waste and recycling system Banyule's diversion rate has risen from 43 to 54.3%

## PRESERVING AN ANCIENT RIVER RED

This significant River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camadulensis*) (right) is remnant indigenous vegetation and has immense value as a seed source and for local habitat. It is in the Warringal Parklands at Sills Bend, on the original site of the Sills Homestead, which predated the settlement of Heidelberg.

Council's arborists inspected the tree and found it to have insufficient sound timber to support itself. Rather than remove the tree a fence was built to create an exclusion zone eliminating risk to the public. This way the tree can shed limbs and decay naturally, providing further habitat for local wild fauna.

## BANYULE THANKS ITS VOLUNTEERS

Council will celebrate National Volunteers week on the May 17 with the presentation of the 2007 Banyule Community Volunteer Awards and a Thankyou function at The Centre Ivanhoe. Volunteers working in the Banyule community are invited to attend. Organisations are eligible for two free tickets for their volunteers or can apply for a table of 10 at a subsidised rate of \$15 per head.

The closing date for RSVPs has been extended to April 27. For tickets call Melissa Bear on 9490 4222 or for more information call Karen Molinaro on 9490 4222 Monday to Wednesday.





# Ivanhoe Fiesta on May 5

The annual Ivanhoe Fiesta is on Saturday May 5 this year.

Money raised by this fun annual community event will go to the Leather and Lace fundraiser for the Oliver Newton John Wellness Centre.

Ivanhoe's traders get together to organise this day of family fun to promote a sense of community, while aiding a great charity that will help so many.

Among those gracing the central stage in Upper Heidelberg Rd will be the Humphrey Bear show, Fireman Sam Show and Postman Pat Show,

There will also be a fashion parade for the children, live

music with Mr Toad's Wild Ride Show Band, a celtic band, the Music Manjaro African Band and more.

The Ivanhoe Hotel will host a fashion parade for the many stores in Ivanhoe.

There will be fun in the street with wandering entertainment, displays and rides. The Fiesta will take over Upper Heidelberg Rd from the Town Hall down to the Post Office for the day, from 10am to 4pm.



Drowning is the most common cause of preventable death for children under five years of age in Australia. It is law that swimming pools or spas on private residential properties in Victoria provide safety barriers (an approved pool fence) to restrict access to the pool or spa. Pool fence gates must be self-closing and self-locking.

## RESPONSIBILITY

The home-owner is responsible for installing the safety barrier on all swimming pools, hot tubs and spas containing more than 30cm of water, whether or not they have children. Safety barriers are not required for structures not used principally for swimming, paddling or wading (such as bird baths or dams).

Safety barriers play a major role in preventing drowning in backyard pools. In most cases where children drown by gaining access to fenced pools or spas they do so through faulty gates or gates that were propped open.

## SAFETY BARRIERS

Safety barriers, even when provided, are no substitute for adult supervision of toddlers/children who are playing near or in water; swimming pools and spas.

## FINES

- Victorian Building Regulations contain fines up to \$5000. A fine may be imposed by a court on a pool owner who fails to comply with swimming pool safety requirements.
- The Building Act 1993 contains penalties of up to \$10,000 for pool owners who install a pool or spa and fail to carry out work in accordance with the building permit for the construction of that pool or spa.
- Councils can also issue a \$200 on-the-spot fine for each breach of the regulations.

## SAFETY TIPS

- Supervision means constant visual contact, not the occasional glance while reading or snoozing.
- If you leave the pool or water area, even for a moment, take the children with you.
- A pool fence is not a substitute for supervision.
- Display a resuscitation chart on your pool fence.
- Familiarise children with water by taking them to swimming lessons at the local pool.
- Empty paddle pools, baths, basins, sinks and troughs immediately after use & securely cover liquid-filled buckets.
- Be aware of the potential danger of fish ponds and water features in gardens.

# Long day care in Banyule

Council manages three Long Day Care Centres – Joyce Avenue in Greensborough, St Hellier Street in Heidelberg Heights and Morobe Street in Heidelberg West.

All three centres provide:

- Full time & part time care for children aged 0-6years
  - A developmentally appropriate, educational kindergarten program that caters for each child's individual needs. The kindergarten program is delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher
  - A program that is inclusive of all children and families, and tailored to each child's age and ability with a range of educational experiences
  - Snacks and hot lunches made fresh each day prepared by a cook trained in "Eat Right, Start Right" menu planning
- (Morobe St in West Heidelberg offers a Halal menu)
- Child Care Benefit for all eligible families
  - Experienced and qualified staff from diverse backgrounds
  - Large and exciting playgrounds with engaging and safe playspaces designed to engage children in outdoor learning

If you are looking for care and are interested in visiting one of our centres, please contact the coordinator who will be very happy to speak with you about the program and show you the centre.

Marjan Keiwiet , Coordinator, Joyce Ave: 9434-6098  
Rebecca Burton, Coordinator, St Hellier St: 9459-5227  
Robbie Colosimo, Coordinator, Morobe St: 9459-8998



## Kinder open Day May 19

This year kindergartens from across Banyule will open their doors between 10am and 12noon on Saturday May 19 to showcase their quality three and four year old kindergarten programs.

Community-managed (not for profit) child care centres, who employ a kindergarten teacher, will also be open on the day. This date has been chosen in celebration of Education Week. Council is coordinating the event and queries can be directed to Bianca Ellis on 9490 4222.

Council hopes parents of preschoolers take the opportunity to visit their local kindergartens, see the facilities and the kind of programs on offer and also meet other families and the wider kindergarten community.

There will be free activities for children at all centres and staff and parents will be on hand to answer questions.

### **KATHY WALKER BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**

Banyule Primary School Association & Council will conduct an Information evening for parents of young children on Thursday May 10. Leading Educational Consultant & writer for the Education Age, Kathy Walker is back again by popular demand to present another Informative session for parents. Admission is by gold coin donation. The topic for the Evening will be, *School Readiness and Orientation*. The evening starts at 7.30pm at the Old Shire Offices, 60 Beverley Drive, Heidelberg. Enter from Buckingham Drive near Banyule Theatre. (Melway 32 D3.)



# Emily's own housing strategy

Young Banyule resident Emily Bieber is among those getting involved in the creation of a Housing Strategy for Banyule.

Emily, 24, is a social worker in Banyule, working with residents who are living with a mental disability.

She and her husband Dominic, who works at La Trobe University, have bought a three bedroom concrete pre-fabricated house about 50 years old in West Heidelberg near the Bell St Mall.

Housing affordability was the biggest factor in their buying decision, and has become a major focus of the Housing Strategy's formulation.

Emily says: "We wanted enough backyard for chooks and vegetables. We liked the fact that this house had an established garden and a garage and three bedrooms."

She and Dominic were astonished that banks offered to lend them a staggering \$600,000 but they didn't want to take on that level of debt.

The young couple looked at Preston (which was a bit more expensive) and Reservoir (which had less character) before settling on Heidelberg West in the old Olympic Village area.



EMILY BIEBER.

Emily hopes West Heidelberg will retain its multinational diversity. Having moved from Fitzroy she says cultural variety and good international food are vital. "If I have kids I want them to grow up around people who've had different life experiences," she says.

"I'd get bored living in a wealthy homogenous suburb. It's a bit bland. Some of the area's new residential developments look more like a movie set than a neighbourhood.

"In West Heidelberg the people over my back fence speak Arabic, and our next door neighbours are Croatian. There are Southeast Asian, Greek and a lot of African heritage all around.

"There are families with young children, some teenagers, young childless couples like us and older people living alone after 50 years in the neighbourhood. We like that variety."

Emily says public transport is adequate, with Bell St buses to just about everywhere, but it would be nice to be able to walk to a train station. Emily and Dominic access basic services like bread and milk at Bell St Mall, go to Leo's Supermarket in Burgundy St and Preston Market for specialty groceries, and love Northland and Bunnings.

Emily would like to see more public housing mixed in with the private in Banyule, and more of a mix, especially smaller places to cater for the growing number who seem to live alone.

## BANYULE'S HOUSING STRATEGY

Banyule City Council wants to develop a Housing Strategy that will make it a community leader in sustainable housing. It invites interested residents to take an active part in developing the plan to suit Banyule's needs.

The plan will consider demographic and housing market trends in Banyule to promote adequate diversity and distribution of housing for the future.

Banyule's new Housing Strategy, due to take shape in 2007, will take up the challenge of fitting our housing to our people rather than vice versa. It will do that with an eye to easy access to jobs, shops, parkland and services. It will promote the use of public transport, walking and cycling while encouraging a sense of community and reducing energy and water use.

For more information on the Housing Strategy visit Council's website at [www.banyule.vic.gov.au](http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au) or call Council on 9490 4222 to register your interest and obtain more information.

# Snapshots

## CONSERVATION ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

Council's Environmental Grants program provides an incentive to new or established groups to develop programs to conserve resources, reduce waste and pollution or maintain and enhance the natural environment. A grant pool of \$15,000 is available to help local groups, schools and individuals with the costs of organising and implementing conservation programs. For more information visit the Council website at [www.banyule.vic.gov.au](http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au). Applications close on Friday May 4. For inquiries and application forms call Ellen Mitchell on 9490 4222.



## ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Council's Environment Advisory Committee helps to implement and monitor the Banyule Environment Strategy, oversees production of annual State of the Environment reports and provides advice and comment on environmental matters.

The committee meets from 7.30-9.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month.

Nominations for this committee are sought by April 27. For more information call Ellen Mitchell on 9490 4222.



## ADVANCED WATERWATCH TRAINING

Melbourne Waterwatch runs FREE Advanced Training sessions for teachers, community groups and individuals wishing to improve their river health monitoring skills by regularly testing the water. You will learn sampling techniques, including aquatic macroinvertebrate sampling and identification, how the data you collect is used and how to develop a strategic monitoring plan. All equipment is provided. BYO lunch. Morning and afternoon tea included. The next session is on Thursday June 21, 9.30-4.30pm at Darebin Parklands Environment Centre in Alphington. To book phone Julia Vanderoord on 9490 4222 or email: [julia.vanderoord@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:julia.vanderoord@banyule.vic.gov.au)



## CYBERVAN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Council's free Cybervan training sessions operate weekly from Council's Waterdale Rd Operations Depot on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Entrance is at the rear of the depot with a walk through the "Replenish" garden in Perkins Avenue, Bellfield. In three two-hour sessions participants learn to surf the Internet, send and receive email and access Council services.

Council is seeking now volunteers to teach these sessions. For more information on volunteering or to book a course call Morgan-Leigh Brown or Bev Grace on 9490 4222.





# Saving our swamps

For 18 months now John Wardzynski (below) has been going monthly to the Banyule Creek and the Banyule Swamp in Viewbank, testing water quality parameters such as pH, salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity (muddiness) and nutrients.

As a volunteer with the statewide Waterwatch Program John is also a keen sampler of aquatic macroinvertebrates (water bugs) and has been learning new skills in identifying what is living in his local waterways.

John, who is a teacher at Viewbank College, became a monitor because of the school's involvement. Its year 7s, headed by teacher Joanne Lockwood, have initiated a regular monitoring program of the Banyule Creek just below their school grounds.



John originally monitored with another local Waterwatch group, which is a great way to learn monitoring skills and meet like-minded people committed to protecting our local waterways.

John recently reported a pollution event to the EPA, and reported the sighting of European Carp, a pest fish, within the swamp system. Many of these fish have been successfully removed as a result.

John told *The Banner*: "Environmental issues and conservation in general had become part of my life since an early age. Wetland ecosystems broadened my interest further through what they had to offer in the wide diversity of flora and fauna they had on offer. Through this interest, I wanted to contribute more towards what nature has provided us with its rivers, streams, and wetlands.

"Giving back to nature through the Waterwatch program in monitoring our waterways and aquatic macro invertebrate sampling was a start for me in increasing my knowledge, and maintaining my interest in the conservation of our waterways. The most rewarding part of Waterwatch is knowing that there is a positive outcome when carrying out either the chemical parameters and bug sampling surveys.

"To obtain good water testing quality results, and a wide variety and diversity of aquatic bug life in the waterways you are testing, is most rewarding for anyone who has an interest in conservation," John said. "Hopefully because of our work in 20 years the creek and swamp will be cleaner, abundant with wildlife and water bugs, and definitely with less pollutants, rubbish and introduced pest plants choking our waterways."

## Ivanhoe Pool may close in April

Council plans to close the swimming pools at Ivanhoe Aquatic and Fitness Centre during the coming Easter school holidays so the concourse can be fixed.

An engineering consultant has been engaged to advise on a replacement surface for the recently installed concourse that has bubbled.

Every effort will be made to minimise disruption to swimming pool operating hours.

Members and patrons will be kept informed of the plans and progress.

The pool closure will not affect access to the Ivanhoe Aquatic and Fitness Centre's upstairs gymnasium, aerobics and other non-aquatic programs.

Swimming members can use their memberships to swim at the Olympic Leisure Centre pool during the closure.

For more information or an update call the Ivanhoe Aquatic Centre on 9490 7111.



# Boosting mobility

For a very small cost businesses can make a very big difference to the lives of people who use mobility devices.

## **FIND OUT HOW YOUR BUSINESS CAN BE INVOLVED**

The Recharge scheme encourages local businesses to provide a power point to allow people to recharge the battery in their electric wheelchair or scooter if required.

The cost of electricity to recharge a battery for up to an hour is under 20 cents. So for a very small cost to businesses, people who use scooters or wheelchairs can feel safe to stay out for longer in the community, without the worry of their scooter or wheelchair battery running out.

Banyule has a large number of people in middle and older life so this may lead to an increased number of people with restricted mobility using a scooter or wheelchair as a valuable means of transportation.

Driving a scooter up steep roads and footpaths means that batteries run low more quickly, and that's where the Recharge scheme comes in handy.

The Recharge scheme was first developed by the Shire of Nillumbik as a MetroAccess initiative, supported by VicRoads, the Department of Human Services and

Mobility Aids Australia. Based on its success with 25 businesses affiliated in the Shire of Nillumbik, Banyule would like to extend the Recharge scheme here.

Recharge stickers are visible on participating shopfronts so the community can easily identify local businesses affiliated with the scheme. There are also Recharge stickers placed above/near power points so people can quickly locate which power point has been designated for them to use.

Interested businesses need to be physically accessible and willing to provide a power point so people in scooters/electric wheelchairs can recharge their battery.

Interested businesses can contact MetroAccess Officer Sonya Maunders on 9490 4222 or email [sonya.maunder@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:sonya.maunder@banyule.vic.gov.au).

If you are a resident of Banyule who uses an electric scooter or wheelchair and you would like to be involved in this project please contact Sonya.



## Excellent transport choices

Council is committed to providing excellent transport choices to all residents and visitors to the municipality. That is why it has updated the Transport Planning section on the Banyule website to give you the most up-to-date information on cycling, walking, trains, buses and driving in Banyule and beyond at [www.banyule.vic.gov.au](http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au)

Check out Banyule's TravelSMART Map too. The TravelSMART map is based on the Melway map system and pulls all the sustainable transport options to the foreground. It sets out excellent public transport, cycling and walking routes as well as detailed information on train, bus and tram services; walking and cycling group information; bus interchange information; travelling with limited mobility information; and a Time Travel Matrix for major destinations in Banyule. The Map is available at any Council Service Centre or can be posted to you.

### **TRAVEL MORE EFFICIENTLY IN THE CAR.**

Now everyone can access in-car navigation software, from the comfort of home. Pre-plan your vehicle trips by visiting

Telstra's Whereis site. It provides a travel path, an estimate of travel time, and a printout of driving directions. [www.whereis.com.au](http://www.whereis.com.au)

For more information email [transport@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:transport@banyule.vic.gov.au)





# Smarter business in 2007

Banyule businesses are embracing a new age of smarter business practice in 2007. Leading the charge into this new era are the Rosanna Village traders. They have analysed impacts on their bottom line and the environment by taking part in Council's environmental sustainability program.

The program is called VIC 1000. It is a sustainable business management program focusing on a select 1000 business across Victoria to reduce their impact on the environment through a process of audits, workshops and training. Collin & Kirk Optometrists are among the businesses that have just started their first environmental audit.

The program will focus on water, energy, waste, chemical use and transport. Previous business participants have saved about \$500 a year in operating costs. Council is helping to provide this program at no cost to 20 Rosanna traders. The normal cost is \$4000. Watch this space as we keep you abreast of the progress of local traders over the next 12 months.

If you are interested in helping your business to function more efficiently, environmental audits are just one of the support programs that Council offers.

## APRIL BUSINESS EVENTS

### INTRODUCTION TO EMARKETING

**Wednesday April 4, 6pm – 8.30pm @ Darebin Council Offices. Cost: \$35**

Update your Internet skills and learn effective advertising strategies.

### RECLAIM YOUR INBOX

**Wednesday 18 April 18, 6pm – 8pm @ venue to be announced Cost: \$30**

Keep your inbox in shape for professional online communications.

## Band championships here in April

The prestigious Australian National Band Championships will be staged at The Centre Ivanhoe and the nearby Ivanhoe Girls Grammar Performing Arts Centre over the Easter weekend. (April 5 to 9).

The Championships will be attended by more than 400 soloists and 87 bands, with many coming from interstate, and some from overseas.

A street parade of marching bands will be held in



## GOING INTO BUSINESS WORKSHOP

**Thursday April 26 @ Council Chambers, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road. Cost: \$30**

Avoid the pitfalls that can break a business.

## MAY BUSINESS EVENTS

### MY FIRST BUSINESS WEBSITE

**Wednesday May 2, 6pm – 8.30pm @ Withers Room The Centre Ivanhoe 275 Upper Heidelberg Road. Cost: \$35**

Get your comprehensive checklist and start your own business website.

### WOMEN'S ACCESS TO FINANCE

**Tuesday May 15, 6pm – 8pm @ Council Chambers, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road**

Unravel the jargon in financial statements and understand your options when financing your business.

Places are limited. For more information on how you can get involved in any of these programs please contact Carley Scott at Council's Economic Development Department on 9457 9833, email: [carley.scott@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:carley.scott@banyule.vic.gov.au) or visit [www.banyulebusiness.com.au/events](http://www.banyulebusiness.com.au/events).

Burgundy Street on the morning of Saturday April 7. A Gala Concert featuring top bands and soloists will be held at The Centre Ivanhoe on the evening of Sunday April 8.

All events are open to the public and tickets will be available on the day.

For more information go to the Victorian Bands' League website at <http://www.vbl.org.au/nationals>

# Community events APRIL - MAY



APR 3

Reconciliation Banyule Free Films: *Freedom Ride*, *Charles Perkins*, *Aboriginal Civil Rights Movement* 7.30pm @ Community Centre, Uniting Church, Seddon St Ivanhoe. 9499 2005.

APR 10

H'berg Historical Society Meeting 8pm @ Uniting Church Community Centre, Seddon St Ivanhoe *Streton, Roberts and Condor - Two summers at Eaglemont* 1888-90. Phone 9455 2130.

APR 11

HeidelbergVIEW Club lunch meeting 11.45am @ Withers Room, The Centre Ivanhoe, 275 Upper H'berg Rd, Ivanhoe. Bookings essential. 9497 4732.

APR 13

Banyule's H'berg School of Heritage Artists Charity Exhibition opens 7.30pm @ Ivanhoe Reception Centre in aid of DV men's health prostate cancer support group. 9431 3154.

APR 15

Dog and cat microchipping day @ Ivanhoe Town Hall underneath rear carpark. \$20 per animal. Book with Lost Dogs Home 1300 300 670.

APR 18

Heidelberg Theatre Co. *Dinner* by Moira Buffini, directed by Joan Moriarty runs April 18-May 5 Matinee April 29 @ 36 Turnham Ave, Rosanna. Bookings: 9457 4117.

APR 20

Victorian Deaf Society free adult hearing checks third Friday each month. Book your 30min appointment & receive a free audiogram @ DV Learning Centre, G'borough. 9435 9060.

APR 21

Strathalan Community Baptcare Fair 10am-3pm @ cnr Erskine & G'borough Rds Macleod. 9459 9211. Swing band, animals, food, plants, silent auction, arts, crafts & more.

APR 22

Arden Crescent Concert Series, 2pm @ Uniting Church Arden Crescent Rosanna. Joe Chindamo Trio with guest vocalist. \$18, \$15 conc, \$5 student. 9457 2595.

APR 22

Mosaic Multicultural Concert 2.30pm @ Warringal Seniors Hall, 80 Hawdon St H'berg. Kavisha Mazzella & Zarasa. \$12, \$8 conc. kids U6 free. Book: 0429 136 596.

APR 23

Yarra Valley U3A Monday Talk: Dr Brian Harper on *Design of Iron Bridges for Victorian Railways in 1850s* 2-4pm @ St Andrew's Anglican Church Hall, Rosanna. Melway 19K12.

APR 24

H'berg Film Society *Rats in the ranks* 7pm drinks/chat 7.30pm film starts @ H'berg Theatre Co, Turnham Ave, Rosanna 9497 3265.

APR 28

St James Anglican Church Autumn Fair 9am-1.30pm @ 252 Upper H'berg Rd, Ivanhoe. 9499 1158. Cakes, books, plants, white elephant, toys, sausage sizzle, children's activities.

APR 28

Soroptimist International visit to East Ivanhoe Church *Treasures*: stained glass, banners, mosaic altar, carvings & candle dance. 1.45-4.30pm. \$10 & gold coin afternoon tea for charity. 9497 1017.

APR 30

Ivanhoe Photographic Society lecture: Kay Mack A *Personal Journey Through Photography* 8pm @ Warringal Snr Citizens Hall, 80 Hawdon St, H'berg.

MAY 5

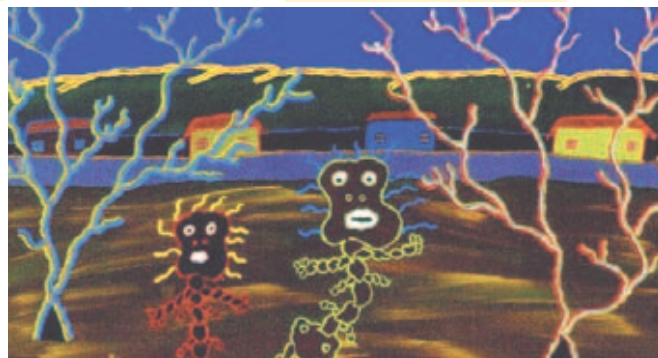
Rosanna Primary School Fair 10am-4pm @ Bellevue Ave, Rosanna. Children's rides & activities, reptile display, white elephant, wine, food stalls, live music & more. 9459 5524.

MAY 6

Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra Group plant sale and free garden advice 10am-4pm @ The Old Court House, cnr Brougham St & Main Rd, Eltham. 9435 7786.

MAY 13

Dog and cat microchipping day @ Ivanhoe Town Hall underneath rear carpark. \$20 per animal. Book with Lost Dogs Home 1300 300 670.



**Harry Wedge Very Pleased, 1999.**

## Reconciliation art

Council will mark National Reconciliation Week in May with a free exhibition entitled *Entangled Encounters* giving residents a chance to experience works by Aboriginal artists including Harry Wedge, Julie Dowling, Gordon Bennett and Destiny Deacon.

*Entangled Encounters* will be at the Banyule Arts Space in Ivanhoe from Wednesday May 23 to Saturday June 9.

It will highlight works from Banyule's growing collection of works by Aboriginal artists, as well as examples from other collections. The exhibition will be officially launched on Friday May 25 to coincide with the raising of the Aboriginal flag and the start of Reconciliation Week.

National Reconciliation Week, which runs from May 27 to June 3 started in 1996 to provide a national focus for reconciliation activities. It is a time to reflect on achievements so far and on what must still be done to

achieve reconciliation. May 27 marks the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum in which more than 90 per cent of Australians voted to remove clauses from the Australian Constitution which discriminated against Indigenous Australians. The referendum also gave the Commonwealth Government the power to make laws on behalf of Aboriginal people.

Reconciliation is a national issue, but it starts at the local level and is an ongoing challenge.

Council has been working with members of the indigenous community and others to keep the reconciliation process moving forward. Council's delivery of educational and artistic activities on this theme promotes improved understanding of Banyule's cultural heritage and provides positive ways to improve community connectedness and inclusion.